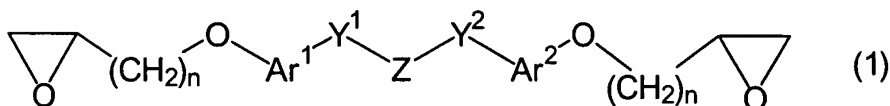


## Amendments to the Claims

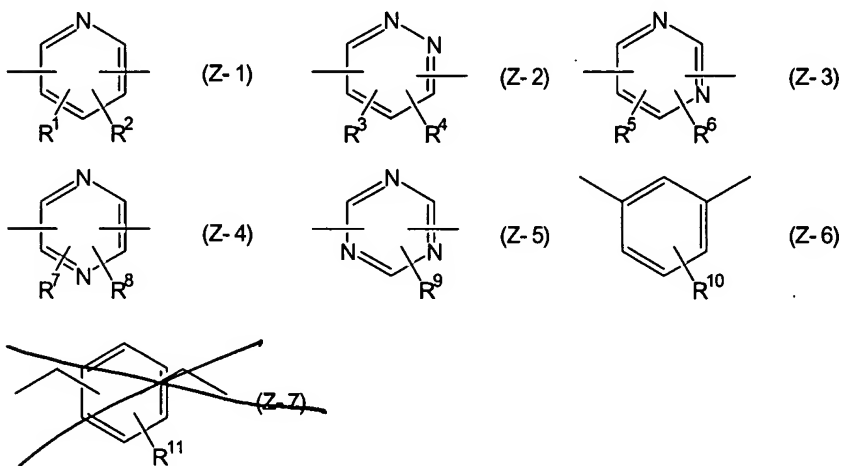
1. (Currently amended) An epoxy compound of formula (1):



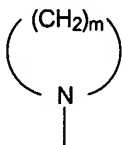
wherein n represents an integer of 1 to 9,

the  $-(CH_2)_n-$  group may have inserted  $-O-$ , or  $-N(R')$ -, between the methylene groups, wherein  $R'$  represents a hydrogen atom or a  $C_{1-18}$  alkyl group,

Z represents any one of divalent groups of the following general formulas (Z-1) to (Z-7):

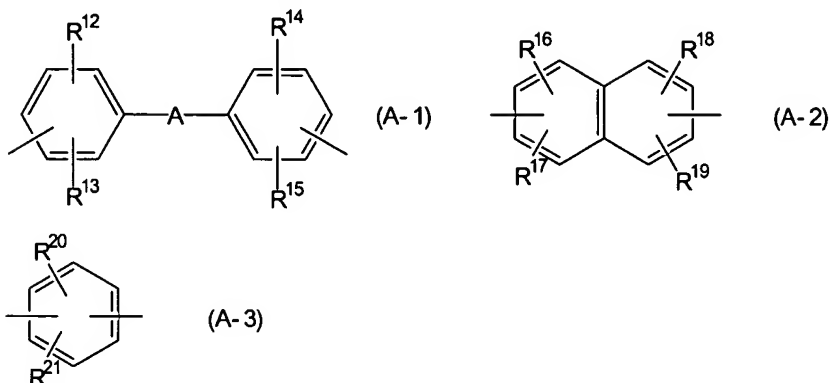


wherein  $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$  are the same or different and represent independently a hydrogen atom, a  $C_{1-18}$  alkyl group, an amino group substituted with one or two  $C_{1-18}$  alkyl groups, or a cyclic amino group of the following formula:

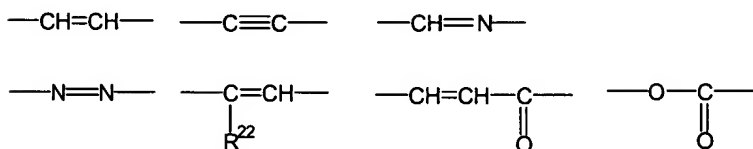


wherein m represents an integer of 4 to 12, and one methylene group or two or more not neighboring methylene groups of the  $C_{1-18}$  alkyl group or groups as defined in connection with  $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$ , and  $R^9$  or  $R^{10}$ , and of the cyclic amino group, may be replaced with  $-O-$ ,  $-NH-$ ,  $-N(R'')$ - or  $-S-$ , wherein  $R''$  represents a  $C_{1-18}$  alkyl group,

$\text{Ar}^1$  and  $\text{Ar}^2$  are the same or different and represent any one of groups of the following formulas (A-1) to (A-3):



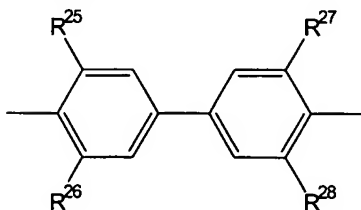
wherein A represents a single bond or any one group selected from the group consisting of:



wherein  $\text{R}^{12}$ ,  $\text{R}^{13}$ ,  $\text{R}^{14}$ ,  $\text{R}^{15}$ ,  $\text{R}^{16}$ ,  $\text{R}^{17}$ ,  $\text{R}^{18}$ ,  $\text{R}^{19}$ ,  $\text{R}^{20}$ ,  $\text{R}^{21}$  and  $\text{R}^{22}$  are the same or different and represent independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a  $\text{C}_{1-18}$  alkyl group, a  $\text{C}_{1-8}$  alkoxy group, a cyano group, or a nitro group,

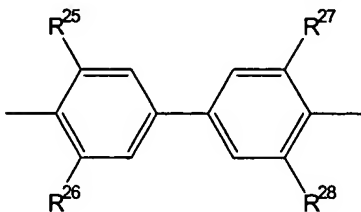
$\text{Y}^1$  and  $\text{Y}^2$  are the same or different and represent a single bond, -O-, -S-, or - $\text{Si}(\text{R}^{23})(\text{R}^{24})\text{—}$ , wherein  $\text{R}^{23}$  and  $\text{R}^{24}$  are the same or different and represent independently a lower alkyl group or a phenyl group.

2. (Original) The epoxy compound according to claim 1, wherein  $\text{Ar}^1$  and  $\text{Ar}^2$  in formula (1) are the same or different and represent independently a group of the following formula:



wherein  $\text{R}^{25}$ ,  $\text{R}^{26}$ ,  $\text{R}^{27}$  and  $\text{R}^{28}$  are the same or different and represent independently a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

3. (Original) The epoxy compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar<sup>1</sup> and Ar<sup>2</sup> in formula (1) represent the same group of the following formula:



wherein R<sup>25</sup>, R<sup>26</sup>, R<sup>27</sup> and R<sup>28</sup> are the same or different and represent independently a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

4. (Currently amended) An epoxy composition, which comprises the epoxy compound as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 and a curing agent.

5. (Original) The epoxy composition according to claim 4, wherein the curing agent is an amine-type curing agent or a phenol type curing agent.

6. (Currently amended) A cured epoxy resin product obtained by curing the epoxy composition as defined in claim 4 ~~or 5~~.

7. (Currently amended) A prepreg obtained by impregnating or coating a substrate with the epoxy composition of claim 4 ~~or 5~~ and then semi-curing the epoxy composition.

8. (New) An epoxy composition, which comprises the epoxy compound as defined in claim 2 and a curing agent.

9. (New) An epoxy composition, which comprises the epoxy compound as defined in claim 3 and a curing agent.

10. (New) A cured epoxy resin product obtained by curing the epoxy composition as defined in claim 5.

11. (New) A prepreg obtained by impregnating or coating a substrate with the epoxy composition of claim 5 and then semi-curing the epoxy composition.